

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, City Treasurer, Vincent Jones, City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Chief Samuel Prue, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was modified to add 2.2 under Presentation for Councilwoman Toles or Senator Benson to address the Council. It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the agenda with the modifications. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Approval of July and August Meeting Minutes

The City Council postponed the reading and approval of the minutes until the October 10, 2011 Public Session.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Health Empowerment Network or Prince George's County

- Mayor Grant stated the City hosted two Health Summits in the last two years.
- The 2010 Health Summit was held in Council Chambers in 2010. The partners for the 2011

- Health Summit held at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center this year were Prince George's Health Department, Kaiser, UMD-Health Preventive Center. The academia was the focus for this year.
- The health outcome parallels in the East of the Mississippi Delta. District 24 has the worst health disparity.
- This is the 2010 Health Care Reform Act signed into law in 2010. We did a presentation with our Federal partners, Georgia Lawyers and Prince George's Hospital.
- Tim McNeill is the professional. He has opened up clinics in the Atlanta area.
- The contract is being reviewed by the attorneys of the outside investor.
- We have opened facilities in the Mississippi area
- Seat Pleasant Fire House will be the first place for training. We have toured the facility at Prince George's Hospital. Laurel Hospital is on board and we will open a facility there as well.
- The focus is to reduce the cost in re-admission rate, which is \$9,000.
- They are excited as this started in Seat Pleasant. The numbers for the hospital have been presented and they will see 400-800 patients a week.
- The focus is Aids and Hypertension. The Renal Centers are out of control.
- The grant was written by Eric Coleman and we modeled the program after his grant.
- This will give the City recognition in support of President Obama Health Care bill.
- County Councilwoman Karen Toles stated that the County Administration Building is closed due to the weather. They are meeting in Riverdale.
- She stated that the moving of the Career Personnel has been on the table prior to her taking office.
- She has met with the Fire Chief and expressed the concerns. She stated that there will be a Fire Chief Advisory meeting on September 28, 2011 at the Suitland Community Center to address the needs of the Fire Department.
- She welcomes all to come to her with their concerns.
- She has been in a lot of meetings regarding Economic Development in Municipality. She stated that we need to stick together as a community
- The Council President is a strong person and she has seen her in Annapolis fighting and speaking on behalf of Seat Pleasant with Delegate Vaughn, Delegate Howard and Senator Benson.

- They have worked together to push things through. She has been in contact with the Mayor and the Council President regarding concerns in Seat Pleasant.
- She stated the Councilwoman Gatling was the first to inform her of the Fire House.
- She stated she doesn't want to get another call regarding the Seat Pleasant Police Department working at the clubs.
- She has stopped the Prince George's police from giving bad press to Seat Pleasant.

3. LEGISLATION

- **Ordinance O-12-04 Absentee Voting** was introduced by the Councilwoman Gatling on Monday, August 1, 2011 and the first reading was declared. The second reading was conducted on Monday, September 12, 2011. It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Ordinance O-12-04. The motion carried.
 - FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson
 - AGAINST: Yeargin
 - ABSTAIN: None
- **Ordinance O-12-06 Budget Amendment for FY2012 for the Police Department Motor Data Terminal** was introduced by the City Council on Monday, August 8, 2011 and the first reading was declared. The second reading was conducted on Monday, September 12, 2011. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve Ordinance O-12-06. The motion carried.
 - FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
 - AGAINST: None
 - ABSTAIN: None

4. REPORTS

4.1. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Grant stated that he issued a Proclamation on September 11, 2011 in recognition of the 2001 terrorist attack on the nation.
- He needs the money for the Veterans Memorial. He thanked Former Councilwoman Exum in her efforts in giving the \$30,000
- He has requested that they look at policy and not persons when making a decision. The goal is to leave the City in a better position when we leave.

- We concluded the Mayor's Tuesday Night Social. It was a powerful one. We had four Councilmember's show up and listen to the residents' concerns.
- He's a grass root person and the numbers don't matter. You can have 1000 who do nothing and 10 who will do more.
- He thanked the Council for showing up, and the City Administrator attended all of them and addressed some concerns.
- They hosted the Camp in Goodwin Park and he thanked Councilman Porter for attending. The Bureau of Land Management will host the next one Lorton, Virginia.
- The first day of School went well. They gave out some School supplies. He thanked the Council for supporting with the \$5,000 contribution each year. He said the scores were 85% in Math, 98% in Reading and 100% Autism children scores with 75% of the County Autism children.
- Mayor Grant stated the Legislative Breakfast monies were not put in the budget. He hopes the Council will get together and put something in the budget to extend to the delegates. He stated the City's legislative priorities are Homeowners Tax Credit, Feggans Center Bond Bill and Green Code Initiatives.

4.2. Council President Report:

- Councilwoman Gatling stated that the Council President report is on the table. If you have any questions regarding the report, please see her after the meeting.

4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-

- Kevin Brenner, Fire Chief submitted his reported in writing with the numbers for the month of August 2011.

4.4. City Administrator Report-

- Mr. Jones stated that September is Emergency Preparedness month.
- He stated that the Inspector inspected City Hall after the earthquake and we did not have any damages to the building.
- The Public Works Department worked overnight after the hurricane to clean up the down trees. He stated that City Hall lost power for two hours
- He stated the City does not have an Emergency Preparedness Plan. He has contacted University of Maryland to assist with the comprehensive plan.
- He stated the Seat Pleasant Police Department will now acknowledge receipt of complaints
- He stated the Personnel Manual has been updated and they will meet with the Government Affairs committee and return the manual to the Council for approval.
- He stated the Economic Development position is the hardest to fill.

4.5. Code Enforcement Officer

- Ms. Andrews was absent from the Public Session on Monday, September 12, 2011. The Code Enforcement Officer report was submitted in writing.

4.6. Finance Department

- Mr. Ashton stated that report is in the Information Stand.
- He stated that resident should apply for the Home Owners Tax Credit
- He stated that the Excess Tax Credit must be applied for too. He stated the Excess Tax Credit puts a cap on how much your home will go up.
- He stated the Other Municipal Charges on tax bill is not an additional charge charged by the City of Seat Pleasant, but it is the refuse charge. He stated a detail explanation will be forthcoming in the Newsletter.

4.7. Police Department

- Chief Prue stated that his report was on the Information Table

4.8. Public Works Department

- Mr. Thompson stated that August was a busy month for the Public Works Department with the routine work schedule.
- He stated that we had two storms in the month of August. The first storm had knocked down trees and power lines, which caused the City to be without electricity.
- The Public Works Department maintained the City when the power was out and cleared the roadways of fallen trees to ensure that a pathway was maintained for the residents to use the streets.
- The storm caused a massive amount of tree limbs all over the City. The Public Works Department put together a recovery plan for the City. This included trees, power lines, street repair and an evaluation of all city drains.
- The second storm was Hurricane Irene, which declared as a National Emergency. This required the staff to be in 24 hour emplacement to deal with the blackout and the massive storm in the area.
- The City accumulated sixteen full length dump trucks of tree limbs and trees and a week of constant removal of debris. We worked with Pepco to get trees cut and power restored in various areas of the City.
- The Public Works Department worked with Budget Heating and Air Conditioning contractors to install a new Air Conditioner Equipment for the Council Chambers and first floor of City Hall.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- Amanda Feggans would like to know the status of the Feggans Center. Mr. Jones, City Administrator stated that at last City Council meeting, the Council approved the Project and Construction Managers.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Election of Council President

- The City Clerk passed the ballots to the council to cast their votes, and the city council ballots was counted. The votes declared that Councilman Porter will be the Council President.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1. None

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

8.1. Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 9:00a.m., Oakcrest Community Center, 1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights, MD

8.2. Ward IV Meeting, Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:00p.m., Carmody Hills Baptist Church, 6501 Seat Pleasant Drive, Seat Pleasant, MD

8.3. Ward II Crime Prevention Training, Thursday, September 28, 2011 at 6:00p.m., Pleasant Homes Apartments Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743. Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the Love Offering should be stricken from the flyer.

ADJOURN- The meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham

City Clerk